

The Progressive Farmer.

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Raleigh, N. C.

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' Association and N. C. State Farmers' Alliance, and the Virginia State Farmers' Alliance.

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BE ON THE ALERT.

NO organization, of whatever character, has ever shown the marvelous growth developed by the Farmers' Alliance. At first it was sneered at and all manner of evil conjectures were indulged as to its permanency and its purposes. Quietly and serenely it has gone forward and largely until now it embraces many of the very best citizens of our State. It is strong and is daily growing stronger. Its power has not been so signally displayed as in the bold, manly and determined manner in which it resisted the Bagging Trust in 1888. The pluck and spirit and unity which it displayed greatly astounded the whole country. But the result showed its power. The most hopeful feature developed in that struggle was the fact that while the politicians, would-be leaders, legislatures, and even Congress itself, cringed before these money lords and did not dare to move a hand against them, the sturdy, honest farmers of the South stepped forward manfully and defied and defeated them.

The Alliance is now strong enough to become a great pet with this class. Hence we learn of certain schemes for utilizing the order in the furtherance of personal or party interests. The members should keep their eyes open and be constantly on the alert, for there are many traps set in which they might be ensnared. Any scheme or proposition should be tested by the principles of our order. Lay it down side by side with our principles—see if they coincide, without contorting or bending our principles. Do not try to bend or suit our principles to the scheme, but make the scheme conform to our principles just as they stand, and if this cannot be done, reject it, whatever it may be. Principle, principle is everything with us. Let us stand faithfully and unflinchingly by it in all things and everywhere.

THE GRISSOM CASE.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has abstained from publishing anything in regard to this matter, save the simple announcement that the charges had been preferred and that the investigation was in progress. It does not believe that a newspaper should publish an opinion that might prejudice a case while that case is being investigated by proper legal authority. It had earnestly hoped that the result of the investigation would be such that it would meet the approval of the great body of our people. It had hoped that the vindication of Dr. Grissom would be so clear and triumphant that he could continue to administer the responsible duties of his high position, in the enjoyment of that confidence of the people of the State, with which, for a score of years, he has been singularly honored. The testimony was published, the public read it and the public, like the Board of Directors, is divided. It is needless to attempt to disguise the fact, that the testimony was read and weighed by the public with the view of ascertaining the truth or falsity of the charges. It would be folly to ignore the fact that widespread dissatisfaction with the finding of the majority of the Board prevails throughout the State. Now a new and important question presents itself to the Board and to Dr. Grissom: Can the Board, in view of this dissatisfaction, as guardians of the interests of the asylum and its inmates, afford to retain Dr. Grissom as Superintendent?

intendent? Can Dr. Grissom afford to remain there in the face of this disapproval? Would it not greatly impair the usefulness that great State charity? We believe it would, and we therefore believe it to be the duty of the Board and of Dr. Grissom to vacate the office. A week ago the question was: How will it affect Dr. Grissom? The question is today: How will his continuance affect the institution and our unfortunate people who should be within its walls? A very large proportion of our people have decided upon the testimony, that he should no longer remain. That being so, we do not hesitate to say that he should resign.

MONTGOMERY THROWS WIDE HERGATES.

WE learn from the Daily Advertiser, of that city, that the citizens of Montgomery, held a large meeting a few days ago to arrange for the reception and entertainment of the Inter-State Association at its meeting on the 20th of August. A committee of two hundred citizens, was appointed with Governor Lowry as chairman, and the warmest interest was manifested. We feel sure that the body will be handsomely received and most royally entertained by the generous and refined people of that noble city. No people in the South are more earnestly and vitally interested in the important matters to be considered than they, and we hazard nothing in saying that Alabama will leave nothing undone to make the coming meeting of the Association the most interesting and profitable yet held.

We would urge upon the delegates not to fail to get the certificate of the agent or agents from whom they have purchased their tickets, that they have paid full fare to Montgomery. Without such certificate they cannot get the advantage of the reduced fare on their return trip. And we would suggest also that if convenient they should see their agent before the date of purchase and ascertain if the agent has received orders to sell such tickets. It was claimed last year that all the agents had been instructed, but that it had been done so far in advance of the date that it escaped their memory.

Again, we ask the delegates to note the subjects laid down in the programme and go prepared to discuss them. We want a meeting that will bear fruit and bring good results. They are home questions; many of them of vital importance to the industrial progress of the South. We would be gratified to receive notice from such delegates in our State as expect to attend.

THE STATE ALLIANCE.

EVERY indication points to a large meeting at Fayetteville. We hope to see every county well and strongly represented. The selection of delegates seems to have been made with care, and we doubt not it will be a body whose sound judgment will do honor to our noble order. The Secretary will go to Fayetteville in advance and make every arrangement possible for the comfort of the body. Grave questions, affecting the progress of our cause, will be considered, and we doubt not it will be done with due deliberation. We have great confidence in the judgment, the conservatism, the sense of justice, the prudence and the patriotism of the North Carolina State Alliance. They are men who only want to know what is best and what is right, and as a rule there are no safer men on earth, if they take time to consult the sober second thought on matters of doubt. We confidently look for good work at the hands of that body.

MAY WE BE DELIVERED!

IT is gravely announced in the papers, that a syndicate has been formed, which will erect a large number of cotton seed oil mills throughout South for the purpose of securing to the farmers a better price for their cotton seed! With our recent experience with trusts and combines, is there a farmer in the South who is such a fool as to be gulled with such stuff as the above?

When the farmers, through the Alliance, shall say: We will not sell our seed until we get our price for them—then seed will bring a better price, but not till then. And in this connection we admonish our farmers to heed the recommendation of the Birmingham Conference—not to sell a bushel of the seed of the coming crop until further advised. The matter is in the hand of the proper authority, and by heeding this suggestion we may save several millions dollars to the South. Don't engage your seed yet. A trust forming to raise the price of cotton seed, indeed!! Bah!

—James H. Harris, Secretary of Pungo Alliance, No. 1,373, writes to say their organization was effected in November, 1888, with a membership of five. They now number forty-eight good and true members, each of whom may be relied upon. They will do their duty in subscribing to the business agency fund. The crops in that section, considering the cool, wet season, are good, except the corn crop.

HARRY TRACY.

BRO. Harry Tracy will speak at Shelby, Cleveland county, on Tuesday, August 6th, and at Rutherford, Rutherford county, on Wednesday, August 7th.

At each of these places, he will deliver a public address at 11 a. m., and a private lecture to the Alliance at 2 p. m. Let all the brethren turn out with their families to receive and hear this popular and sterling representative of our noble order. The brethren in the counties above named are requested to give his appointments as wide publicity as possible. Go to hear him and you will not regret it. Remember that he will speak, as already published, at Monroe, Tuesday, the 3d inst., and at Charlotte on Wednesday, the 31st inst. We learn that the brethren of old Mecklenburg propose to make the grandest Alliance demonstration on Wednesday, that has ever occurred in the State.

HON. W. J. GREEN.

A SUBJECT has been assigned to each of the States composing the Inter-State Farmers' Association for discussion, at its annual meeting in the city of Montgomery. The subject assigned to our State is: "The Grape Industry of the South," and Vice-President Carr has designated the Hon. W. J. Green, proprietor of the celebrated Tokay Vineyard, to lead in the discussion of this important subject. Mr. Carr and the State are to be congratulated on this most admirable selection.

No man in the State is better qualified for the thorough and profitable discussion of this great industry than Col. Green, and we hazard nothing in saying in advance, that North Carolina will be honored, as she has always been, when this patriotic and loyal son has been entrusted with representative responsibility.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

* Grievous complaints of damage to crops, from excessive rains, continue to come in from almost every section of the State.

* The forty million hogs raised in the country are valued at \$200,000,000, and the Mississippi Valley claims to raise three-fifths of the number.

* We have every reason to hope that North Carolina will be well represented at the Montgomery meeting. We hear of quite a number of gentlemen appointed who will attend.

* The Cleveland Plain Dealer says the trouble with Mr. Tanner, the Pension Commissioner, is the disease known as megaloccephalus, and the best way to cure big head is to take it off.

* The Press Association of the State met in the refined and hospitable town of Lenoir last week and the brethren enjoyed it immensely. We will note some of their doings in our next issue.

* The New York State Fair will be held at Albany, September 12-19. This will be the forty-ninth annual exhibition of the State Society. The prize list may be had on application to the Secretary at Albany.

* The annual Methodist Conference of Statesville district will be held in the Newton Methodist church, beginning on the 1st day of August and continuing through the first Sunday. Bishop Duncan will preside.

* Kate Maxwell, the noted "Cattle Queen," and her partner, Jas. Averill, postmaster at Sweet Water River, Wyo., have been lynched at that place by cowboys. The couple were at the head of a gang of "rustlers or cattle thieves."

* The Governor of South Carolina has accepted the resignation of Dr. McDow as surgeon of the First (S. C.) battalion of infantry. He is the man who killed Capt. Dawson, editor of the Charleston News and Courier.

* The chairmen of the county commissioners of Catawba, Caldwell, Burke, Lincoln and Gaston counties met in Newton, Saturday, July 6th, to assess the Narrow Gauge railroad for taxation. The assessment was placed at \$3,500 per mile.

* Cattle in large numbers will be shipped to Europe during the next few months, all the steamer room on lines running to London, Liverpool and Glasgow, from New York and Boston having been taken up. Low prices here and shortage there, the causes.

* Testimony has been taken in New York city, in the Kemmler case, as to the effect of electricity on human life, and the witnesses differ materially. Two were produced who had either been struck by lightning or received 1,000 volt shocks without serious injury.

* Jute bagging fell from 13¢ to 8¢ just as soon as the representatives of the trust heard what the Alliance, Wheel and Union had resolved to do in regard to bagging. The North-western Farmer says, it is no wonder the trust "busted." Such a tumble as that was enough to break anything. Let our North Carolina farmers stand by their record. Don't buy trust bagging at any price.

* The following is a Kentucky editor's idea of a "trust": "A trust is represented by a few big boys who unite to handle a long pole and knock down the perquisites, at the same time punching back the little fellows who are slowly and painfully trying to climb the tree."

* Four mammoth trusts were reported on Saturday the 20th inst., with an aggregate capital of \$219,183,000, viz: Lead, capital, \$83,018,800; sugar, capital, \$49,856,500; cotton seed oil, capital, \$42,162,200; distillers and cattle feeders, capital, \$30,726,600; American cattle, capital, \$13,996,100.

* The people of Johnstown, Pa., have protested against the slow action of the flood commission. Gov. Beaver thinks Williamsport, whose lumber industry has been destroyed for a year, is in a more serious condition, the iron industries of Johnstown having been resumed. Five bodies were recovered July 19. A diver reports many more on the river bottom, held by tangled wire.

* Not since the year 1867 have we had such an enormous amount of rain-fall as during this season. The crops in the low lands, in many sections, are greatly damaged—the small grain in many cases was injured considerably. But all over the middle and western sections of the State, the "earth groans" with its richly laden fields of vegetables, fruits, grasses, and corn. In nearly all the cotton counties there has been too much rain for that plant, but under favorable conditions it may yet yield above an average crop.

* If you have not already done so, begin at once for a large turnip crop. Two things are essential—first, that the ground should be thoroughly pulverized. Break (not turn) deep and often, plow and harrow until it looks like a plant-bed. Make it rich. These are the two conditions which if properly observed will always secure good results in our climate and soil. When the frosts come, be ready to take up your turnips and bank or cellar them as you would your potatoes, and you will find that no acre of your land will pay you better. Prepare for a larger and better turnip crop than you have ever made, and if judiciously used, you will not regret it.

* The writer greatly regrets that he was physically unable to meet the friends of Elon College and the good people of the surrounding country on the occasion of the laying of the corner-stone of that institution. He expected, up to the very day, to be present, and would have been but for the positive protest of his physician against it. He has found that the human frame, like all other machines, can be overtaxed. He is delighted to learn that the occasion was in all respects a most gratifying success, and that the college starts out under the most hopeful auspices. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER hails its establishment with great pleasure and would gladly do all in its power to promote its usefulness.

* In our villages, towns and cities the habit of smoking cigarettes among boys is alarming. Frequently children of eight, ten or twelve years of age are seen with packages and dividing them among those who either cannot buy them or have not as yet acquired the habit. In nine cases out of ten the parents are to blame for it. These children have not been properly trained and disciplined. If the parent watched over their conduct and habits as closely as they should, they could and would detect it. Thousands of bright little boys are being ruined by the habit of smoking, and their parents are not aware of it. Watch the dear little boys. And when the next Legislature convenes, have a law enacted by which it shall be an indictable offense to sell or give cigarettes to these boys. Let us save the children.

* THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER would admonish the farmers of the State to economize and save all possible from the present crop. We want to get out of debt, we want to get as nearly as possible, down to a cash basis, and the most advantageous time to begin this policy is when we have a good crop from which we may save. Dried and canned fruits are always convenient to the housewife and are palatable and healthful. No cheaper food can be placed on the table. Every family should be provided with an ample supply. Be sure to save enough hay, fodder, etc. to winter your stock well. Save all the root crops you can for your cattle and hogs. Utilize every thing possible on the farm and take care of it, and thus make a good start in this fruitful and bountiful year for home independence.

* I've got bigger corn than that!" "Why didn't you bring it, then?" "Well, I thought I would, but then I put it off for one cause and another till I thought it was too late." This is a sample of conversations that anyone can hear at the next State Fair, October 14th to 19th, because it is what people have heard ever since fairs were invented. It ought to teach a lesson. No doubt the speaker did have finer corn than what was on exhibition, but he didn't have the energy and disposition to gather it,

put it in proper condition and ship it to serve as a lesson to thousands of people who are anxious to learn that every farmer's interest is in keeping his neighbor, and he should take this to himself because it is intended for him, and send to the Secretary of the State Fair samples of the best yields of his various crops. It will reflect credit upon his skill and will do more good than the trouble and pains cost.

* The Treasury Department, says an exchange, has sent out an important circular relative to the rebate on cotton bagging to collectors of customs in the South. Under the law a rebate of duty is allowed upon jute bagging whenever the exporter of cotton proves that it consists of imported jute, and this provision has been enforced simply by taking the ship's manifest, showing the number of bales exported. The person pocketing the rebate may not have been the real owner, and the bagging on the cotton may have been a domestic article. In order to more strictly enforce the law, the treasury circular provides, that hereafter every cotton exporter demanding a rebate upon jute bagging shall declare upon oath that he has made inquiry in regard to the material, and is convinced that it has been imported. Should he prefer it, he may produce the testimony of the manufacturer of the bagging or that of the forwarder of the cotton.

* The Board of Directors of the North Carolina Insane Asylum, in this city on Saturday last, acquitted Dr. Grissom, Superintendent of the asylum, by a vote of five to three, of the charges of immorality, cruelty to patients and misappropriation of supplies, which had been preferred against him. The investigation had been pending for several weeks and had attracted the attention of the people of the whole State. The decision of the board does not by any means meet the unanimous approval of the people of the State; so far from it, in many places indignation meetings have been held and the board's action denounced. Many of the newspapers of the State have demanded the Doctor's resignation. Immediately upon the announcement of the decision of the board, Dr. S. H. Rogers, Assistant Physician, Mr. John W. Thompson, Steward of the Asylum, and Engineer West tendered their resignations, which were accepted.

ALLIANCE NOTES.

[Always give the name and number of your Alliance, your postoffice and your county, plainly, when you write to the President, Secretary, Trustee, Business Agent or Chairman of Executive Committee of the State Alliance.]

—The North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance will meet in Fayetteville on the 13th day of August.

—For the information of delegates and others who may attend the State Alliance at Fayetteville, we publish again the rates obtained from the railroads. Read them.

—Central Alliance, No. 1,290, Currituck county, at its last meeting, elected officers for the ensuing term. Corn and cotton will be short on account of the wet weather.

—Bro. W. H. Russ, of Delta Alliance, No. 874, says his Alliance is still gaining in numbers. They are raising a fund for the business agency which will be forwarded soon.

—The President of Franklin County Alliance requests us to say there will be a meeting of that body in the town of Louisville, on August 9th, at 10 o'clock, a. m., at which a full attendance is desired.

—We are requested to announce that there will be a meeting of the sub business agents of Randolph county with the county business agent at Asheboro, on Monday the 5th day of August, 1889, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

—E. R. Outlaw, of Lebanon Alliance, No. 811, says his Alliance was organized about eighteen months ago. The Alliance has raised \$25 for the State agency fund and they hope to be able to do even better than this, although the members are generally poor men.

—D. Reid Parker, of Trinity College, N. C., Lecturer of the N. C. F. S. A., will be with the brethren of Rockingham county at Mt. Bethel Church, near Simpson's Store, on Saturday, August 3d. The public generally invited to come out and hear Bro. Parker.

—In answer to enquiries, we would state that members of the Alliance in good standing are entitled to seats on the floor of the State Alliance as visitors, and by courtesy of the body they may participate in the discussions. None but properly authenticated delegates are allowed to vote.

—At the last regular meeting of Jones County Alliance, officers were elected for the ensuing term. The following is some of the most important business transacted: Incorporating the Alliance. The action of the Birmingham Convention was endorsed in relation to cotton bagging; endorsed the union of the Wheel, Alliance and Union; that our delegate be instructed to vote to increase the initiation fee \$1, and that the Secretary instruct each Sub-Alliance to inform their Business Agent of the amount of

bagging needed to bale their first picking of cotton. Also that a committee be appointed to wait upon the transportation companies on Trent river and secure more reasonable freight rates, and that each delegate present impress upon his Alliance the very small per cent. realized in farming. Adjourned to meet again on August 10th.

—W. T. Barrow, Deputy Organizer of Franklin county, says Alliance No. 113, of which he is a member, is going to stand firm and use nothing but cotton as a covering for the cotton crop this year. They bought their fertilizers last spring direct from the manufacturers and saved the commissions usually paid to local dealers.

—Bro. Chas. Sutton, writing from Lam's Chapel, Alliance, No. 1,070, Craven county, are working enthusiastically and watching for an opportunity to help, in any manner possible, in the good cause. He gives a rather gloomy account of the crop prospect. He says: "Our crops are very much damaged by heavy rains in this immediate section. The river was about as high as it was in 1887, and the crops on the low lands on each side are almost totally destroyed. We are to have a grand picnic and farmer's feast at Street's Ferry, on Neuse river, ten miles above New Bern, on the 2d day of August. All are invited."

—The Southern Alliance Farmer says: "Sometime ago the Clay county, Ga., and Henry county, Ala., Alliances met and agreed to buy a warehouse at Fort Gaines. They traded for it to be paid in installments and thought everything was O. K., but busy bodies began to meddle with the matter in order to break up the trade. The two county Alliances met again on July 2d and determined to show what they were made of. So in a few minutes they raised \$6,200 cash and paid for the warehouse, thereby saving 16 per cent. Like the bagging trust, these meddlers were a blessing in disguise."

—At least one third of the County Secretaries have not yet reported for the last quarter. Some of them write that they will hand in their reports at the meeting of the State Alliance. We do not see how the State Secretary can receive these reports and give receipts, as it is our habit to go over the reports and see that they are correct before we give receipt. It is impossible for us to do this and discharge our duty as Secretary of the meeting. We beg therefore that the reports will come this week. It is of very great importance that these reports should be incorporated into one annual report which must be completed before the 13th prox. Brethren do attend to this important matter at once.

TRACY IN WHITEVILLE.

EXCELSIOR, N. C., July 20, '89.
MR. EDITOR:—I take great pleasure in saying (through your paper) that I, together with several other brethren from old Brunswick, went all the way to Whiteville on last Tuesday to hear that eloquent expounder of Alliance doctrine, Bro. Harry Tracy, give a full and graphic account of the existing condition of our country, the causes of such condition, and the only safe remedy for the cure of such condition. We do not propose to do this whole-souled patriot and eloquent expounder of the gospel of the Alliance the gross injustice to attempt even an outline of his discourse, but beg space to say to our brethren who did not have an opportunity to hear him that they missed a chance. So vivid was his portrayal of the shrewd scheming of the "bosses" of our country, and his complete exposure of trusts will leave none to question the baneful effect of the dollar rule. At about half past 11, the speaker was introduced by our good brother, Dr. J. F. Harrell, in a short but timely speech. The court house was densely crowded with fair women and brave men. The gentleman from the "Lone Star State" took the stand and for two hours held the audience spell-bound. The audience was composed of farmers, merchants, doctors and lawyers, all of whom paid the strictest attention to what Bro. Tracy said, and when the lecture was over I heard but one answer to the question: "How do you like the speech?" "It was the best I ever heard." I regret very much that Bro. Tracy could not visit Brunswick, and in fact I deeply regret that he cannot make a thorough canvass of every neighborhood in America. Under his superb speeches the blinded eyes would be opened, prejudices removed, harmony restored, brotherly love strengthened and there would not be a single doubting Thomas in our band of disciples. Brethren, in conclusion let me admonish one and all to never miss an opportunity of hearing Bro. Harry Tracy.

The brethren of our lodge are in good spirits and the doctrine of the Alliance seems to be gaining foothold in this vicinity. The cause is hopeful, dollar rule is doomed, the battle is waging fierce, and with proper diligence the contest will have been ended, and principle and justice will triumph in the end. Success to the grand cause. I remain as ever,
FRANKLIN MILLEN, Sec'y.